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Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Institute Caregivers Program announces 2006 grant winners

AMERICUS, Ga.—Johnson & Johnson has announced the winners of the sixth Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Institute Caregivers Program grant competition. The program supports community-based projects that improve the quality of life of family members, friends and neighbors who are caregivers.

The five outstanding community organizations chosen will each receive a \$40,000 grant from Johnson & Johnson and technical assistance provided by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI).

"We know that family caregivers have multiple needs; but the needs we have most frequently identified through our work at the RCI over the past 19 years are respite care, skill development, information and education, and caregiver health and well-being," said Laura J. Bauer, director of the Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Institute Caregivers Program. "What the five organizations chosen for grant funding this year all have in common is their desire to help address these needs in their own communities."

"We are proud to support these community-based programs that assist caregivers in caring for their loved ones in need," said Joanne Fillweber, manager, Medical Affairs and Corporate Contributions, Johnson & Johnson. "Our objective is to 'help the hands that heal.' As the number of caregiving Americans continues to grow, we need to ensure that support services are available to sustain these caring individuals."

A panel of national experts from several caregiving disciplines including gerontology, children, nursing, hospice, health sciences, service-learning, and intergenerational programming selected the five organizations to receive this year's awards.

The winning organizations are:

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- Special Kids/Special Families, Colorado Springs, CO – their “Caring for Caregivers Together” program will develop a community respite care database for demographic need and resources and will provide 80 hours of center-based respite care to caregivers of children and young adults who are disabled and/or at risk for abuse and neglect.
- West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, Columbus, GA – their “Community Partners Caring for Caregivers” program will provide cancer education and screening, nutrition education, and palliative care information for caregivers in rural communities. Mobile units, churches, community centers and schools will serve as points of entry for planned services.
- Greater Nashville Regional Council’s Area Agency on Aging and Disability, Nashville, TN - their “Take a Break!” respite program will provide 100 hours of in-home respite care and a wellness package to caregivers currently not funded for respite care services through the Administration on Aging due to age restrictions.
- Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas, Belton, TX –using the “Support Team” concept, they will recruit and train volunteers to deliver the REACH II intervention for family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease. This intervention model has proven to be beneficial in a clinical trial sponsored by the National Institute of Health.
- Texoma Senior Citizens Foundation/Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services of Texoma, Sherman, TX – their “Texoma Caregiver Disaster Response Network & Special Needs Registry” program is a caregiver collaboration based on lessons learned during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which demonstrated the immediate need for caregiver disaster preparedness training, and for the implementation of a locally based special needs registry to provide a vital link between responders and vulnerable citizens during a disaster.

The mission of the J&J/RCI Caregivers Program is to enhance the quality of life, quality of care, knowledge and understanding of family caregivers. The program recognizes that the future of the nation’s health care system rests on the shoulders of the family caregivers, who are the major providers of long term care. The value of the services family

caregivers provide for "free" is estimated to be \$306 billion a year; twice as much as is actually spent on homecare and nursing home services. Caregiver needs must be addressed in a timely, caring and competent manner to ensure the health and well being of both the caregiver and the people they are caring for.

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) formed a partnership in 2001 to develop a signature program in caregiving. This partnership builds on the foundational work in caregiving accomplished by the RCI during the last 19 years and builds on the credo of Johnson & Johnson to be "responsible to the communities in which we live and work" and "encourage...better health and education."

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving was formed in honor of First Lady Rosalynn Carter in 1987, and is based at her alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University. Through research, education and training, the RCI promotes the mental health and well being of individuals, families and professional caregivers; encourages effective caregiving practices; builds public awareness of caregiving needs; and advances public and social policies that enhance caring communities.

Johnson & Johnson, through its operating companies, is the world's most comprehensive and broadly based manufacturer of health care products, as well as a provider of related services, for the consumer, pharmaceutical and medical devices and diagnostics markets. The more than 200 Johnson & Johnson operating companies employ approximately 115,000 men and women in 57 countries and sell products throughout the world. The company is headquartered in New Brunswick, N.J.

REPORTERS/EDITORS:

For more information on the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) or its programs, call (229) 928-1234 or go online: www.RosalynnCarter.org.

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